

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2006



Proudly Presented By:

CITY OF LEESBURG
~ HIGHLAND LAKES

PWS ID#: 3354869

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Al Purvis, Chief Water Operator, at (352) 728-9835, or visit our Web site at www.ci.leesburg.fl.us.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our city commission meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet on the third floor of City Hall on the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5:00 p.m. City Hall is located at 501 West Meadow Street in Leesburg.

Source Water Assessment

The Source Water Assessment Report has determined that our water system has no potential sources of contamination. For this community system, a five-year, groundwater travel time around each well was used to define the assessment area. The five-year, groundwater travel time is defined by the area from which water will drain to a well pumping at the average daily permitted rate for a five-year period of time.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets, and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

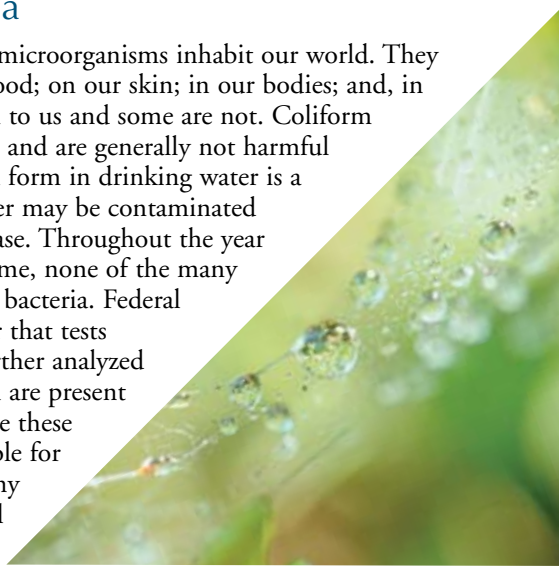
- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.



Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil, and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year we tested for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the many samples taken came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.



Where Does My Water Come From?

Our source of supply for the City of Leesburg - Highland Lakes water system is groundwater taken from the Floridian Aquifer within the Oklawaha watershed. We presently have three (3) deep wells in our system ranging from 650 feet to over 1,000 feet in depth located within the community. Chlorination in the form of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) is used for disinfection purposes. Highland Lakes has .2 million gallons of storage capacity and serves 1,218 meter connections representing an estimated population of 2,436 customers.

To learn about your watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. EPA's Search Your Watershed Web site at www.epa.gov/surf.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

Chlorine in the form of sodium hypochloride is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the smallest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.)

Substances That Might be in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in some groundwater. It may pose a health risk when the gas is released from water into air, as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes and clothes. Radon gas released from drinking water is a relatively small part of the total radon in air. Radon is released into homes and groundwater from soil. Inhalation of radon gas has been linked to lung cancer; however, the effects of radon ingested in drinking water are not yet clear. If you are concerned about radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level. For additional information on how to have your home tested, call (800) SOS-RADON.

Contamination from Cross-Connections

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals may contaminate garden hoses that are left lying on the ground. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, review the Cross-Connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/crossconnection.html. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Table Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED ¹	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Radiological Contaminants							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	3/2002	No	1.5	NA	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 [Combined Radium] (pCi/L)	2/2003	No	0.9	NA	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Chromium (ppb)	2/2006	No	1.49	NA	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2/2006	No	0.074	NA	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	2/2006	No	0.036	NA	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2/2006	No	6.46	NA	NA	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
TTHMs and Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Contaminants							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED ²	RANGE OF RESULTS ²	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5] (ppb)	7/2006	No	16.77	NA	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	7/2006	No	7.15	NA	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	6/2004	No	1.14	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	6/2004	No	4.5	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	HIGHEST RESULT	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Aluminum (ppb)	2/2006	No	54.2	NA	NA	200	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Chloride (ppm)	2/2006	No	10.3	NA	NA	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Color (Units)	2/2006	No	10	NA	NA	15	Naturally occurring organics
Copper (ppm)	2/2006	No	0.0059	NA	NA	1	Corrosion byproduct and natural occurrence from soil leaching
Iron (ppb)	2/2006	No	86.5	NA	NA	300	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Manganese (ppb)	2/2006	No	2.58	NA	NA	50	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2/2006	No	76.0	NA	NA	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Zinc (ppm)	2/2006	No	0.0303	NA	NA	5	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

Footnotes:

¹ Results in the Level Detected column for radiological and inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

² The Level Detected is the annual average of the quarterly averages for haloacetic acids, and total trihalomethanes (MCL 80 ppb). The Range of Results column shows the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites, including IDSE results.